

The volume is replete with tables and graphs giving comparative measurements of the plant and its parts as it developed in the different environments. Photographic illustrations of plants and of specimen vouchers provide convincing demonstration of the results obtained.

This work at once becomes a classic in the field of experimental taxonomy. Regardless of agreement or disagreement as to precise limitation in the definition of species the problem of the pattern of relationship within closely allied groups is clearly set forth by such methods as these. Obviously it will be impossible to subject all plant groups to similar experimentation. It is hoped, however, that enough such work can be done to complete the picture of the nature of relationships in plants so that a pattern can be established into which such plants as are not adaptable to this mode of treatment can be placed.—HERBERT L. MASON.

### NOTES AND NEWS

The following monographic studies and other important taxonomic articles have appeared recently: "preliminary list of desmids of the Pacific Northwest with descriptions of some new forms," by Gordon D. Alcorn (*Occas. Papers, Dept. Biol. Coll. Puget Sound*, no. 10, 1-200, pls. 1-8. 1940); "the North American sub-divisions of *Ranunculus*," by Lyman Benson (*Amer. Journ. Bot.* 27: 799-807, 17 figs. 1940); "a revision of *Laurentia* and allied genera in North America," by Rogers McVaugh (*Bull. Torr. Bot. Club* 67: 778-798. 1940); "new combinations and new names in the Umbelliferae," by Mildred Mathias and Lincoln Constance (*Bull. Torr. Bot. Club* 68: 121-124. 1941); "a revision of *Choisya*," by Cornelius G. Muller (*Amer. Midland Nat.* 24: 729-742, 7 figs. 1940); "the American species of *Hippocrateaceae*," by A. C. Smith (*Brittonia* 3: 341-355, 12 figs. 1940); "a revision of the genus *Chaenactis*," by Palmer Stockwell (*Contrib. Dudley Herb.* 3: 89-168, pls. 22-45. 1940).

Recent articles of general interest to botanists are: "late Tertiary floras of the Great Basin and border area," by Daniel I. Axelrod (*Bull. Torr. Bot. Club* 67: 477-487. 1940); "some features of the structure of *Toxicodendron diversilobum*," Herbert F. Copeland and Bernice E. Doyel (*Amer. Journ. Bot.* 27: 932-939. 1940); "history of botanical exploration in Alaska and Yukon territories from the time of their discovery to 1940," by Eric Hultén (*Botaniska Notizer* 1940: 289-346. 1940); "Arizona localities of interest to botanists," compiled by T. H. Kearney (mimeographed, received 1941); "additional nomina generica conservanda: Pteridophyta and Phanerogamae," by T. A. Sprague (*Kew Bull. Misc. Inf.* no. 3: 81-134. 1940); "Gramineae of Nevada," by Jason R. Swallen (*Contributions toward a flora of Nevada*, no. 1, mimeographed, Washington, D. C.).—ETHEL CRUM.